

Senate Resolution 1370

By: Senators Hooks of the 14th, Johnson of the 1st, Brown of the 26th, Golden of the 8th, Seay of the 34th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Honorable Terrell Starr; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Honorable Terrell Starr has served with unparalleled ability as a member of the
3 Senate for 19 consecutive terms of office and has faithfully represented the citizens of
4 Clayton and Henry counties with great distinction and dedication; and

5 WHEREAS, his consistently thorough consideration of the issues presented to this
6 deliberative body and his integrity and reliability have rightfully earned him the honor,
7 respect, and trust of his colleagues over the years; and

8 WHEREAS, his colleagues know him as a clear thinker and hard worker, as a man whose
9 strong convictions are supported by meticulous research and careful consideration, and as an
10 equitable, impartial leader whose decisions were governed by the rules of honesty and fair
11 play; and

12 WHEREAS, this dynamic and powerful public servant has held a number of influential posts,
13 including serving as chairman of the Senate Appropriations, Education, Ethics, Finance and
14 Public Utilities, and Transportation Committees and serving as administration floor leader
15 for former Governor George Busbee, President Pro Tempore of the Senate from 1999 to
16 2002, and he currently serves as Secretary of the Senate Ethics Committee and as a member
17 of the Education and Youth, Finance, Natural Resources and the Environment, and
18 Appropriations Committees, in addition to serving as an ex officio member of the Banking
19 and Financial Institutions Committee; and

20 WHEREAS, he authored the Adequate Program for Education in Georgia, which guided the
21 state's education program for some 15 years, and later served as a key member of the
22 Governors's Education Review Commission, coauthoring the landmark Quality Basic

1 Education Act, resulting in former Governor Joe Frank Harris praising Senator Starr as a
2 "champion of education improvements"; and

3 WHEREAS, he has also headed or served on an extensive number of special legislative and
4 executive study committees, including the Governor's Growth Strategies Commission, the
5 Hospital Cost Containment Study Committee, the Senate Private Long-term Care Study
6 Committee, the Senate Defense Conversion Strategies Study Committee, and the Joint Study
7 Committee on Revenue Structure; and

8 WHEREAS, during his long career in public service, he served two terms on the Clayton
9 County Commission; eight years on the Clayton County Library Board; 18 years on the
10 Clayton County Board of Health; and six years on the Atlanta Regional Metropolitan
11 Planning Commission, now known as the Atlanta Regional Commission; and

12 WHEREAS, he bravely served his country with honor and distinction in the United States
13 Navy from 1944 through 1946; and

14 WHEREAS, he is a real estate broker and insurance agent in addition to being an active civic
15 and business leader and has served with distinction for 15 years on the Board of Trustees for
16 the Forest Park School District Youth Center, was president of the Jaycees and the Forest
17 Park Kiwanis Club, and received the Distinguished Service Award as the Outstanding Young
18 Man of the Year in Forest Park and he continues to dedicate his life to his community by
19 being an active member of the Forest Park Rotary Club, the Masonic Lodge #399, Royal
20 Arch Chapter #75, the Tara Club, and the Yaarab Temple; and

21 WHEREAS, he has received a number of awards from various organizations for his
22 legislative service, including the Georgia Legislator of the Year Award from the Georgia
23 School Counselors Association; the National Legislator of the Year Award from the
24 American School Counselors Association; the Legislator of the Year Award from the
25 Georgia Parks and Recreation Association; and the Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished
26 Service/Citizen of the Year Award and has also been honored by the Georgia Municipal
27 Association; the Georgia Association for Children with Learning Disabilities; the Georgia
28 Moose Association; the Georgia Association of Home Health Agencies; the Elementary
29 School Principals Association; the Georgia Association of Education Leaders; the Gridiron
30 Honorary Society; the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and the
31 National Association for Home Health Care; and

1 WHEREAS, he is an honorary lifetime member of the Peace Officers Association of Georgia
2 and was recognized by the City of Forest Park with the naming of a park in his honor and by
3 Clayton County by the naming of the Terrell Starr Human Services Center in his honor,
4 which includes a library, a mental health clinic, an office of the Department of Family and
5 Children Services, a senior citizens' center, and a children's shelter; and

6 WHEREAS, the "dean" of the General Assembly has exhibited the level of political activism
7 and unselfish leadership ideally expected of public trustees in an effective, representative
8 democracy, and his stewardship in the Senate has been marked by unmatched dignity, grace,
9 and wisdom; and

10 WHEREAS, the Gentleman from the 44th District attributes his success to his steadfast and
11 loyal aide, Morris Boyer, and Judy Neal, his secretary and assistant of 18 years, Anne
12 Messer, his secretary and assistant of seven years, and Sharon Wilder, his secretary and
13 assistant of 13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, his creative leadership and his thoughtful sensitivity with respect to complex
15 social and political matters, and especially his ability to work behind the scenes and build
16 coalitions and consensus, have received the approval and applause of his peers who hold him
17 in such high regard; and

18 WHEREAS, his foresight and forthright determination have brought unparalleled progress
19 and a sense of destiny to the citizens of his district and the State of Georgia and it is
20 abundantly fitting and proper that the members of this body, most especially those to whom
21 he so freely imparted advice, encouragement, and friendship and who regard him with much
22 admiration and respect, pay appropriate tribute to one of their finest, most distinguished, and
23 most colorful colleagues for the many years of impartial, well-reasoned, and enlightened
24 service he has rendered on behalf of this state and its citizens.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
26 unanimously honor and commend their most outstanding colleague, Honorable Terrell Starr,
27 for substantially improving the quality of life for our citizens and contributing to Georgia's
28 leadership role in the South, commend him for serving as an unmatched example of
29 enlightened government and statesmanship for almost four decades, and wish him every
30 success in all his future endeavors.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
- 2 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Honorable Terrell Starr.